



NEWS RELEASE

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North Dakota Department of Health Urges At-Risk Residents to Avoid Prolonged Exposure to Wildfire Smoke

BISMARCK, N.D. – Wildfires in Canada are sending smoke across North Dakota and other parts of the U.S. In North Dakota, particulate matter (PM) is elevated across the state, but is highest in the northern and eastern thirds of the state. The North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH) urges residents with respiratory conditions to consider limiting strenuous outdoor activities while smoky conditions remain across the region.

Particulate matter can be irritating to the respiratory system, especially for those who suffer from chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), or conditions such as asthma and allergies. The Department does not expect PM levels to exceed ambient air quality standards. However, as a precaution, the Department advises people with respiratory conditions, and the elderly and young children, to limit prolonged heavy exertion outside. If a person finds themselves reacting to smoke to the extent that it is affecting their breathing, they should seek immediate help from a medical provider.

For more information, contact Chuck Hyatt at the number listed above.

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